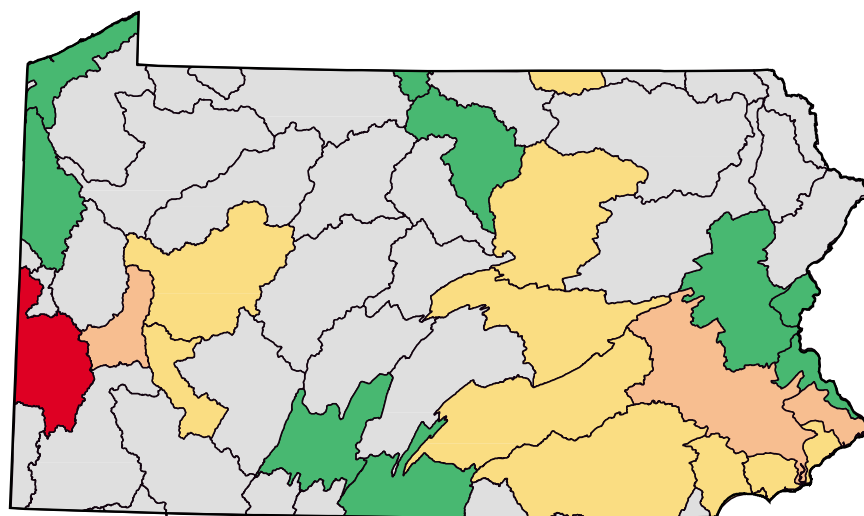


Pennsylvania



Percent of Assessed Rivers, Lakes, and Estuaries Meeting All Designated Uses

- 80% - 100% Meeting All Uses
- 50% - 79% Meeting All Uses
- 20% - 49% Meeting All Uses
- 0% - 19% Meeting All Uses
- Insufficient Assessment Coverage
- Basin Boundaries (USGS 8-Digit Hydrologic Unit)

For a copy of the Pennsylvania 1998 305(b) report, contact:

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The report is also available on the Internet at: <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgt/wc/subjects/wqstandards.htm>

Surface Water Quality

Nearly 66% of the surveyed river miles have good water quality that fully supports aquatic life uses. The most widespread pollutants impairing the remaining miles are metals, which impact over 1,610 miles. Other pollutants include suspended solids, nutrients, and organic enrichment.

Abandoned mine drainage is the most significant source of surface water quality degradation. Drainage from abandoned mining sites pollutes at least 1,764 miles of streams, 40% of all degraded streams. Other sources of degradation include agriculture, urban

runoff/storm sewers, and habitat modification.

Pennsylvania has issued fish consumption advisories on 24 waterbodies. Most of the advisories are due to elevated concentrations of PCBs and chlordane in fish tissue, but two advisories have been issued for mirex and one for mercury.

Zebra mussels are present in Pennsylvania in Lake Erie and the immediate vicinity, as well as the lower Monongahela, lower Allegheny, and upper Ohio rivers. There are about 175 publicly and privately run zebra mussel sampling sites statewide.

Ground Water Quality

Major sources of ground water contamination include pesticide application, aboveground and underground storage tanks, surface impoundments, landfills, hazardous waste sites, industrial facilities, mining and mine drainage, pipelines and sewer lines, and spills. Petroleum and petroleum byproducts are the most common pollutants in ground water. Coal mining and oil and gas production have also elevated concentrations of several elements (including chlorides and metals in some regions). Pennsylvania is continuing to develop its Comprehensive State Ground Water Protection Program (CSGWPP). The CSGWPP provides a mechanism for Pennsylvania and EPA to work together to develop a comprehensive and consistent statewide approach to ground water quality protection. Pennsylvania and EPA will use the CSGWPP to focus on a long-term process for improving existing state and federal ground water programs.

Programs to Restore Water Quality

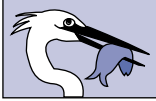







Eliminating acid mine drainage from abandoned mines will require up to \$5 billion. The cost, difficulty, magnitude, and extent of the problem have hampered progress. To date, the Commonwealth has funded studies to determine the effectiveness of alternative techniques for treating mine drainage and preventing contamination. The U.S. Office of Surface Mining and EPA Region 3 have created the Appalachian Clean Streams Initiative to address water quality problems associated with mine drainage in Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. It is hoped that this initiative will involve private organizations and local citizens, as well as government agencies, in moving toward solutions.

Programs to Assess Water Quality

The Water Quality Network monitors chemical and physical parameters almost monthly and biological parameters annually at 153 fixed stations on rivers, streams, and Lake Erie. The Commonwealth also conducts ambient ground water monitoring at 537 monitoring sites.

Biological assessment methods for wetlands are being developed in Pennsylvania with the intention of establishing criteria for wetlands.

Individual Use Support in Pennsylvania

Designated Use ^a	Percent				
	Good (Fully Supporting)	Good (Threatened)	Fair (Partially Supporting)	Poor (Not Supporting)	Not Attainable
Rivers and Streams (Total Miles = 83,260)^b					
 Total Miles Assessed	66	-	-	34	-
 12,902					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Lakes (Total Acres = 161,445)					
 Total Acres Assessed	-	-	-	-	-
					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-

- Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.

^a A subset of Pennsylvania's designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the state's 305(b) report for a full description of the state's uses.

^b Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.